

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 3, 4 and 6-8 are amended, claims 1, 2, and 5 are canceled and no new claims are added. Thus, claims 3, 4 and 6-8 are currently pending in this application.

Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. No new matter has been added.

Objection to the Specification

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to because on page 11, line 12 “(ia, ib, ic)” should read --(1a,1b,1c)--. With this communication, such correction has been made to the specification. Accordingly Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

Claim objections

In the Office Action, claim 2 was objected to. With this communication, claim 2 has been canceled. Accordingly, it is believe this objection is now moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Treiman et al. (U.S. Patent 6,043,893). With this communication, claims 1 and 2 have been canceled. In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that if claim 7 were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 1, 2 and 5. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 3, 4, 6 and 8 have each been amended to depend from amended claims 7. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 3, 4, 6 and 8 are also in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tamanti et al. (U.S. Patent 6,157,453). With this communication claims 1, 2 and 5 have been canceled. As discussed above, claim 8 has been amended to depend from amended claim 7, which is believed to be allowable. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 8 is in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yuyama (U.S. Patent 6,069,676). As discussed above, claims 1 and 2 have been canceled and claims 6 and 8 have been amended to depend from amended claim 7, which is believed to be allowable. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 6 and 8 are in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Salam (U.S. Patent 6,081,073). As discussed above, claims 1 and 2 have been canceled and claims 6 and 8 have been amended to depend from amended claim 7, which is believed to be allowable. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 6 and 8 are in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 259052004200. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: February 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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